

***The Office of Adolescent Health Recognizes
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month:
Evidence + Collaboration = Better Outcomes***

Summary of remarks by:

Melva Williams

Sasha Bruce YouthWork, Inc.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (10 AM–12 PM)
HHS, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Great Hall

A grantee of the Office of Adolescent Health's Tier One program, Sasha Bruce YouthWork, Inc.'s (SBY) Teen Outreach Program (TOP) seeks to address high rates of teenage pregnancy in Ward 8 of Washington, DC. The program offers services to both male and female 9th through 12th grade students at Ballou Senior High School. With the Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention funding, SBY is able to implement an evidence-based program in a community that has the highest pregnancy risk factors in the area. Ms. Williams detailed the elements of TOP in Washington, DC:

- Goal and primary activities. The goal of TOP is to promote healthy behaviors among participants, expand their life skills and develop their sense of purpose. The organization hopes to achieve this by offering participants a positive and supportive adult to facilitate weekly group meetings with the use of the Changing Scenes curriculum, and providing community service learning opportunities.
- Additional activities: Protective factors against teenage pregnancy. OAH funding enables SBY to also offer program participants, as well as the student body at large, some of the protective factors against teenage pregnancy. These include a safe place with supervision; additional support services offered throughout SBY (housing, health and wellness counseling, violence prevention); case management; and civic engagement opportunities.
- Current progress. The TOP program is currently conducting its pilot implementation. SBY staff have: connected with key school personnel that will help support TOP's implementation; established and maintained four TOP clubs, meeting with approximately 60 students on a weekly basis; and identified and recruited for several community service opportunities.
- On-site presence. SBY has a TOP center located in the target high school which is available and accessible during and after school hours. Trained health professionals are available to offer students ongoing support, and well-versed, connected staff are available to help in the area of community service.
- Anticipated outcomes of the program model. With the TOP model, SBY aims to reduce teen pregnancy among students at Ballou Senior High School, increase student attendance, improve academic performance, increase student participation in community service, and make a promising impact with on-time graduation of students.